Phipps doubles his fun by racing two divisions

By Tim Haddock
Signal Staff Writer

SAUGUS — Dave Phipps pulled a little double duty Saturday night at Saugus Speedway before 4,394 fans.

And like it said on his NASCAR Sportsman car hood, he was "Psycho."

The Grand Am points leader raced a Sportsman car as well as his Grand Am Modified car.

With the Sportsman and Grand Am races running back-to-back, Phipps had to run one car into the pits and have the other car on the track moments later.

Psycho.

While getting from one car to another may sound difficult, racing in either class is nothing new to Phipps.

Aside from leading the Grand Am class in points, he has also won three Sportsman championships at Saugus Speedway.

Still, he finished fifth in the Sportsman heat race, while coming in second place in the Grand Am heat race. Later, he won the Grand Am main but dropped out of the Sportsman main before 10 laps were completed.

"Yeah, I'll drive anything," Phipps said during intermission Saturday night. "I like driving."

Phipps started nine cars back in the Grand Am main event and in the back row of the Sportsman feature race.

"It's been sputtering down the straightaways," Phipps said about the Sportsman car. He also was having trouble handling the Sportsman car in the turns. "I'm a little rusty at it."

He seems to have mastered Grand Am racing, though. He won the 30-lap main event, thus extending his 34-point lead in the class.

Phipps took the lead from Robert Rice in lap 16 with a bump-and-run move through turns three and four. Rice finished third as Dave Blankenship moved into second.

Rice got the better of Phipps earlier in the night, by winning the Grand Am heat race.

Phipps, however, withdrew from the Sportsman main event before the tenth lap. He said at intermission he might drop out early because of the problems he was having with the car in the heat race.

"We're trying to develop it," Phipps said about the Sportsman car.

Some racers, like Rick Crow, will try to race two cars on the final night of the season Sept. 24.

Gary Sigman won the 40-lap Sportsman feature race, with points leader Sean Woodside of Saugus coming in second. With that finish, Woodside clinched his first Sportsman championship.

Steve Nickolai won the Sportsman heat race.

In lap one of the heat race, Sigman jumped on top of Dennis Logue's car, and both cars were towed off the track.

Kirk Miller won the 25-lap oval Street Stock feature race, taking the lead from Dean Grizzaffi in lap four.

Mike Gilmore lost a wheel in the warm-up laps before the race and Ismael Felix suffered a flat tire in lap one.

C.J. Thomas hit the wall in lap 17, causing officials to bring out a yellow caution flag.

Miller maintained his lead, with Jeff Drummen a close second.

Richard Russo hit the wall in lap 20, which brought out a red flag. But the caution flags did not deter Miller from taking the checkered flag.

Ken Day won the Street Stock oval B main event. The top four cars in the B main qualified for the feature race. The other three qualifiers were Russo, Rick Minor and Steve Cremin.

Miller also won the oval Street Stock heat race earlier in the evening.

Miller also won the 15-lap figure eight feature race. Greg Bratachie finished second.